

Sarabande, the second of a group of three piano pieces that Debussy named *Pour le piano*, was originally one of four pieces for piano collectively titled *Images*. Before *Images* was published, Debussy reconfigured and regrouped the pieces, saving the *Sarabande* for later publication. One of the editions in which it appeared carried the intriguing subtitle, *Souvenir du Louvre*, leading to speculation that Debussy may have made an association between its quiet, majestic mood and one of his visits to that great museum. The *Sarabande*, and its companion pieces from *Pour le piano*, *Prelude* and *Toccata*, are examples of forms perfected by François Couperin and other French composers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Ravel's orchestrated version of the *Sarabande* dates from 1922.

Written for the 50th Anniversary Season of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Howard Hanson's *Symphony No. 2 (Romantic)* was given its world premiere on 28 November 1930, with Serge Koussevitsky conducting. The theory that the work is a musical self-portrait is supported by Hanson's own notes for the first performance: "Concerning my *Second Symphony*, as the subtitle implies, it represents for me a definite and acknowledged embracing of the romantic phase. I recognize, of course, that romanticism is, at the present time, the poor stepchild, without the social standing of her elder sister, neoclassicism. Nevertheless, I embrace her all the more fervently, believing as I do that romanticism will find in this country rich soil for a new, young, and vigorous growth. My aim in this symphony has been to create a work young in spirit, romantic in temperament, and simple and direct in expression."

Program notes by Elmer Booze

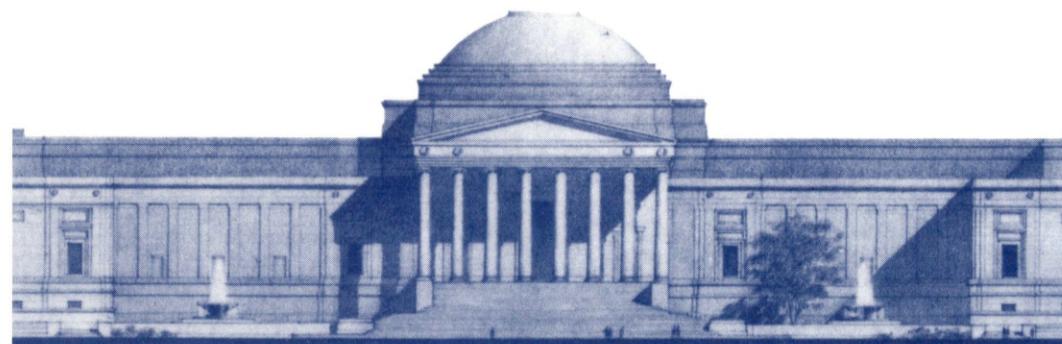
The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed.

For the convenience of concertgoers the Garden Café remains open until 6:30 p.m.

The Fifty-eighth Season of

THE WILLIAM NELSON CROMWELL and
F. LAMMOT BELIN CONCERTS

National Gallery of Art



2339th Concert

NATIONAL GALLERY ORCHESTRA

GEORGE MANOS, conductor

Sunday Evening, 5 March 2000
Seven O'clock
West Building, West Garden Court

Admission free

